Model Act on agricultural marketing

*245. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:†
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in January, Government have circulated a Model Act on agricultural marketing asking States to amend their laws and allow private players to set markets for sale of farm produce;

(b) whether launching of Horticulture Mission and a new Weather Insurance Scheme would be more beneficial for Indian agriculture; and

(c) if so, the other steps being considered by Government to improve agricultural sector in year 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. Under the existing Agricultural Produce Market (Regulation) Act (APMC Act), State Government alone is empowered to initiate the process of setting up of markets for agricultural commodities in notified areas. Processing industry can not buy directly from the farmers. The farmer is restricted from entering into direct contract with any manufacturer as the produce is required to be canalized through regulated markets. These restrictions are acting as a disincentive to farmers, trade and industries. The Governments have, therefore, been advised to amend the APMC Act to allow direct marketing and contract farming and to permit setting up of competitive markets in private and cooperative sectors. A Model APMC Act has also been circulated by this Ministry to all the States to guide them in implementation of the suggested reforms. The Model Act enable any person, grower and local authority to establish new market in any area, removes compulsion on growers to sell their produce through existing regulated markets, allows establishment of direct purchase centres and farmers of markets for direct sale, promote public private partnership in management and development of markets, establish special markets for commodities like onion, fruits, vegetables, flowers etc. This matter was

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Jamana Devi Barupal.

discussed at the national conference of State Ministers on 19.11.2004. All the States have in general agreed for bringing about proposed reforms in the Agricultural Marketing sector.

(b) Yes Sir, The National Horticulture Mission is expected to be launched in April, 2005. The basic objective of the National Horticutlure Mission (NHM) is to double the horticulture production by 2011-12. The Mission envisages technological interventions through forward and back linkages duly addressing all the links from production to marketing and processing of horticultural produce, with an estimated production of 300 million tones by 2011-12. The Mission would specially address (a) Horticultural Research, (b) Horticultural development through generation of good quality seeds and planting material, coverage of area with improved varieties, productivity improvement programmes, human resource development and demonstration (c) Post Harvest Management and Marketing by creating infrastructure facilities for cool chain, market yards & market intelligence and (d) Value addition & Processing of horticulture produce to reduce losses and add value to the product.

The basic idea of Weather Insurance is to estimate the percentage deviation in crop output due to adverse deviation in weather conditons. Techniques like multivariate regression could explain the impact of weather deviations/variations on productivity. This gives the linkage between the financial losses suffered by farmers due to weather variations and also estimates the indemnities that will be payable to them. The Joint Group constituted to study the improvements required in the existing crop insurance scheme has considered the Weather Insurance and found it suitable in specific areas/crops. The Government is consulting various stakeholders regarding implementation of the recommendations of the Group.

(c) Department has proposed to carry forward new interventions/new schemes alongwith ongoing programmes in the Annual Plan 2005-06, for which the Plan outlay has been enhanced considerably to Rs 4179.32 crore as against the RE outlay of Rs 2945.00 crore in 2004-05. The new package for the agriculture sector includes the National Horticulture Mission, Micro-irrigation, National Mission on Bamboo, Enhancing sustainability of Dry land/Rainfed Farming System and increased flow of Rural Credit. Initiatives under the Indian Council of Agricltural Research

relate to setting up a National Fund for Strategic Research and strengthening the KVK network to cover additional 100 districts. These are national initiatives and will help States to increase agriculture production, marketing of farm produce, diversification, value addition and employment generation.

श्रीमती जमना देवी बारुपाल: सभापति महोदय, कृषि मंत्री जी ने मेरे प्रश्न का जवाब तो लिखित में विस्तार-पूर्वक दिया है, लेकिन फिर भी मैं यह पूछना चाहूंगी कि जैसा आपने बताया है कि भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद के क्रियाकलाप राष्ट्रीय कार्यनीति अनुसंधान कोष की स्थापना 100 और जगहों पर की है, तो मैं यह जानना चाहूंगी कि ये 100 और जगह कहां-कहां तय की गई हैं? क्या इसके अंदर गंगानगर जिले को भी लिया गया है? दूसरी बात, मैं यह जानना चाहूंगी।

श्री सभापति: आप एक-एक का जवाब ले लें, नहीं तो मंत्री जी...(व्यवधान)... भूल जाएंगे।

श्री शरद पवार: नेशनल फंड फार स्ट्रेटजिक एग्रीकल्चरल रिसर्च के लिए जो प्रोविजन किया है, वह अलग है। जहां तक कृषि विज्ञान केन्द्र की बात है, देश में 100 डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स ऐसे हैं जहां अभी तक कृषि विज्ञान केन्द्रों की स्थापना नहीं हुई। कृषि विज्ञान केन्द्र की नीति है कि हर डिस्ट्रिक्ट में एक कृषि विज्ञान केन्द्र स्वीकृत होता है, उस पर अमल होता है, मगर जिन 100 डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स में कृषि विज्ञान केन्द्रों की स्थापना अभी तक नहीं हुई, उन 100 डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स में कृषि विज्ञान केन्द्रों के बारे में इस साल अमल करने की बात है। मैं गंगानगर की बात अभी यहां नहीं बता सकता हूं, मगर मैं इसके बारे में इन्फारमेशन लेकर ऑनरेबल मैम्बर को जरूर दूंगा।

श्री सभापति: इन्फारमेशन मत दीजिए, उनका कहना है, वहां कर दीजिए।

श्रीमती जमना देवी बारुपाल: धन्यवाद, सभापति जी। दूसरा मेरा प्रश्न छोटा सा है।

श्री सभापति: दूसरा नहीं करिए, नहीं तो गंगा नगर चला जाएगा।

श्रीमती जमना देवी बारुपाल: मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि जो हमारे लघु किसान हैं, राजस्थान, जो एक रूरल और सूखा क्षेत्र है, जो हर वक्त आपदाओं से घिरा रहता है और वहां के लघु किसान, जिनके पास चार या पांच बीघा जमीन होती है, अगर वे फसल बीमा करवाते हैं तो उनका उससे लेशमात्र भी फायदा नहीं होता और अपना पैसा लेने के लिए कोर्ट-कचहरी या आप तक आने-जाने में वे बर्बाद हो जाते है। इसलिए मेरा कहना है कि आप उनके लिए इस बारे में थोड़ी सहूलियत करिएगा। दूसरे, जो हमारा रूरल एरिया है गंगा नगर का ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: अब और दूसरा मत करिए, हो गया । बैठिए।

श्रीमती जमना देवी बारुपाल: एक मिनट, सर। अपना ही राजस्थान है, साहब। ...(**व्यवधान**)... मैं चार बरस से बराबर इनको कह रही हूं कि दूसरों की तरह मेरे राजस्थान को भी सर-सब्ज बनाएं ताकि हमें भी सांत्वना मिले और हमारे यहां की कैर और सांगरी का बाहर विदेशों तक अचार के प्रोसैसड के माध्यम से विस्तार कराएं क्योंकि वहां के छोटे-छोटे लोग, जो दिन में एक या दो किलो कैर चुनते हैं, सांगरी चुनते हैं, यह उनकी रोजी-रोटी का सवाल है।

बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद , सर, आपने मुझे बोलने का समय दिया।

श्री शरद पवार: कैर और सांगरी के एक्सपोर्ट की जो इन्होंने बात कही है, मैं कहना चाहता हूं के एक्सपोर्ट के लिए इजाजत दी है, किसी को रोका नहीं और इस साल से शायद राजस्थान से भी कुछ एक्सपोर्ट होने की बात शुरू हुई है। बाकी जो इन्होंने कुछ सूचना मांगी है, राजस्थान के बारे में दिलचस्पी तो इनकी है, आपके जैसे इनकी भी दिलचस्पी है ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री सभापति: मेरा तो महाराष्ट्र में भी इंटरेस्ट है।

श्री शरद पवार: आपका तो पूरे देश में इंटरेस्ट है।

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, hon. Minister for Agriculture has given a wonderful reply, a two-page full reply. But, I would like to know the farmer.....

श्री सभापति: आप क्वेश्चन करिए। आप बड़े विद्वान आदमी हैं, बहुत शार्ट में पूछ सकते हैं।

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: I would like to say that the Ministry has done a wonderful thing. The State Governments have been advised to amend the APMC Act, which is regarding agricultural produce marketing system, to allow direct marketing and contract farming and to permit setting up of competitive markets in private and co-operative sectors. Here, I would like to know that how many State Governments have initiated action for amending the State Agricultural Produce Market (Regulation) Act and how many are under-process to introduce the same. But what time, all the State Governments will be able to adopt the model Act on agricultural marketing because it is very important to solve the problems of farmers in the country?

श्री सभापति: आपको मंत्री बना दें तो सभी प्राब्लम सॉल्व हो जाएं।

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, in November, 2004, I called a meeting of the Marketing Ministers of all the States in Bangalore, and in that

meeting, unanimously, a decision was taken that the amendment in the APMC Act will be completed by the end of April, 2005. There are certain States which have already taken some corrective actions, namely, Karnataka, Madhya Prdesh, Maharashtra, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Nagaland, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Rajasthan and Delhi; not, Andhra. These States have already taken certain actions, and the commitment has been made by all the Chief Ministers and Marketing Ministers that they would like to complete all these corrective actions within next two-month time.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज: माननीय सभापति जी, यह सवाल कृषि विपणन अर्थात् एग्रीकल्चर मार्किटिंग से संबंधित है और मंत्री जी ने अपने लिखित उत्तर में विस्तृत वक्तव्य सदन के पटल पर रखा है, किन्तु एक प्रमुख पहलू के ऊपर यह वक्तव्य मौन है। सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगी कि कृषि उत्पाद की कीमत, कृषि विपणन का सबसे प्रमुख पहलू होती है और आप चाहे जितना बड़ा एग्रीकल्चरल मार्किटिंग नेटवर्क खड़ा कर दें, यदि किसान को कृषि उत्पाद की उचित कीमत नहीं मिलती है, तो उसका कोई लाभ नहीं होता। आपको यह जानकारी होगी कि इस वर्ष सरसों, मिर्च, कपास जैसे कृषि उत्पादों के मूल्यों में भयंकर गिरावट आई है और किसान त्राहि-त्राहि कर रहे हैं।

उनको, उनके कृषि उत्पादों की उचित कीमत मिले, इसके लिए सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है?

श्री शरद पवार: महोदय, एम.एस.पी. एक अलग मुद्दा है। यह सवाल एग्रीकल्चर प्रोडयूस मार्किटिंग एक्ट के बारे में और उसमें सुधार करने के बारे में रेस्ट्रिक्टिड है। जहां तक एम.एस.पी. की बात है, कुछ फसलों के संबंध में, इस देश में एम.एस.पी. तय करने की नीति कई वर्षों से रही है और इस पर अमल भी होता है। यह बात सच है कि इस वर्ष कपास का उत्पादन तीस प्रतिशत से भी अधिक बढ़ा है और इसके कारण बाजार पर इसका बुरा असर हुआ है। इस समस्या से उबरने के लिए सी.सी.आई. को हमने कपास की ज्यादा खरीद करने के आदेश दिए और साथ ही साथ इसके निर्यात पर भी अधिक ध्यान दिया जाए, इसके भी आदेश दिए गए। इसमें यदि कुछ नुकसान होता है, उसकी जिम्मेदारी भी सरकार के द्वारा उठाए जाने की तैयारी हमने की है। इस संबंध में सी.सी.आई. ने कई राज्यों में कपास का प्रोक्योरमेंट शुरू किया है। मैं सभी फसलों के संबंध में तो यहां पर विस्तृत जानकारी नहीं दे पाऊंगा, किन्तु जहां तक गेहूं, चावल व कोर्स ग्रेन का सवाल है, राज्य सरकार व फूड कॉर्पोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया, दोनों मिल कर, इसके प्रोक्योरमेंट एवं मूल्य स्तर निर्धारण के ऊपर पूरा ध्यान दे रहे हैं।

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: महोदय, अभी किसानों के द्वारा जो आत्महत्याएं की जा रही हैं, उसमें कपास उत्पादक कृषि समाविष्ट हैं। मेरी जानकारी के अनुसार कॉटन कॉर्पोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया में बहुत सी हेराफेरियां की जाती हैं। सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय कृषि मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि विशेषकर आंध्र प्रदेश में सी.सी.आई. के सामने ही कपास ट्रक लदा जाता है, और बिचौलिए उसमें हेरा फेरी करते हैं। किसान के द्वारा जो कपास बिक्री के लिए लाई जाती है, उसे वापस दे दिया जाता है। उसे कहा यह जाता है कि बाद में खरीदा जाएगा, किन्तु बाद में उसे बिचौलिए खरीदते हैं और उन्हीं बिचौलियों के द्वारा सी.सी.आई. को पुन: बेच दिया जाता है। कृपया सदन को आप इस संबंध में जानकारी दें।

श्री शरद पवार: यह सवाल एग्रीकल्चर प्रोड्यूज मार्किट एमेंडमेंट के संबंध में है। जहां तक मुख्य तौर पर आन्ध्र प्रदेश की स्थिति का सवाल है, उस संबंध में हमें देखना होगा किन्तु एक बात मैं सदन को बताना चाहता हूं कि सी.सी.आई. के द्वारा आन्ध्र प्रदेश में कई स्थानों पर खरीद केन्द्र खोले गए हैं और वहां पर कपास की खरीद का कार्य सी.सी.आई. के माध्यम से हो रहा है। यदि इसके अन्दर कोई समस्या है, तो मैं माननीय सदस्य से इस संबंध में और अधिक जानकारी लूंगा और इस पर अवश्य कार्यवाही की जाएगी और कोई मार्ग निकाला जाएगा।

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the question also relates to the institution of a Horticulture Mission. Will that Mission be instituted? Will Kashmir receive consideration...(*Interruptions*)... yes, Andhra Pradesh also-- for one fact that we have talked about, that is, tourism, which has God given infrastructure in Kashmir? With regard to horticulture, with which 70 per cent of our population is directly connected, and it is also an employment generating sector, it is in a shambles for various reasons. So would the hon. Minister take Kashmir's position in horticulture for pointed attention through this institution of Horticulture Mission?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, in fact, in the last few years there is a scheme which is essentially implemented in North-Eastern States, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh, whereby a lot of facilities have been given for the horticulture. Now, the new proposal which has been accepted by the Government is the Horticulture Mission, which is applicable to the whole country. About Rs. 620 crore has been provided in this year; and the total amount which we would like to provide in the next year for this Mission is somewhat near to Rs. 15,000 crores. Our desire is to enhance the horticulture production and double it in a few years. The State of Jammu and Kashmir is one of the States where there is a tremendous potential and, that is why, we would like to pay special attention and take special care.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister one question. If the hon. Minister kindly would have a look at the question, the basic puport is the role of private players and hence the need for an amendment. Therefore, the need for an amendment in law is one of the incidents of role of private players. The query is: does the Government have any larger comprehensive scheme in place to involve private players in a substantial way by removing middlemen so that Indian agriculture can become more competitive and the famers can get the durable rates?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, as per the Agricultural Produce Marketing Act, as on today, the private sector has no role. Private sector or any private investor is not allowed to set up a *mandi* anywhere in the country, and, a farmer is not allowed to sell his produce outside Agricultural Produce Markets Mandi, and, therefore, there are continuous demands that we should provide alternative arrangements and simultaneously we should encourage the competition. One of the main reasons as to why the decision has been taken to amend the Agricultural Produce Marketing Act is that we want to provide additional opportunities to the farmers and the farming community, and, that is why as per this new amendment, the private sector will be allowed to set up its own *mandi*.

Secondly, in our country, the post-harvesting losses are quite high sized. I had given this information to the hon. Member in this very House that the total money which this country is losing, the farming community is losing because of post-harvesting losses every year, is somewhat around Rs.65,000 crores, and, one of its reasons is that there is no provision to set up many agro-based industries, agro-processing industries. There are number of players who are ready to come forward for setting up agro-processing industries, but their main problem is the raw material.

As per APMC Act, as a farmer, I cannot give my basic raw material, basic agricultural produce to anybody. I have to sell my produce in the market only, and, that is why, we would like to introduce contract farming. I can sign, with any industry, a sort of contract, and, there it is my responsibility to provide the basic raw material, and, his responsibility is to buy that material at an agreed price. So, this amendment will be useful for the farmer from all these angles.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this decision of the Government to set up a National Horticulture Mission is indeed a laudable one, and, the hon. Minister has given details as to what the Government proposes to do for post-harvesting and also marketing. Now, Sir, India is one of the largest producers of fruits and vegetables in the world but barely two per cent of that is exported. So, what steps are being taken by the Government to ensure that we have improved packaging industry; and, also incentives to export fruits and vegetables?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, India is the second largest producer of the horticulture produce in the world. There are certain items like banana of which India is the largest producer in the whole world. It is correct that there are two problems, which the Indian farmer is facing. One problem is the very limited facility of the agro-processing unit. Hardly two to three per cent of our produce is processed. If you compare it with a nation like Philippines, you will find that they process practically 65-70 per cent of their horticulture produce, if you compare it with a country like Thailand, they have practivally gone up to 90 per cent, and, we are still processing hardly two to three per cent. This is the reason that a number of facilities and schemes have been introduced by the agro-processing industry to encourage, to set up an agro-processing unit which will be ultimately helpful for the farmer. Secondly, it is true that our export is limited, but it has a tremendous potential. Ours is the only country which can provide different types of fruits practically every month. There are a number of other countries like America and entire Europe, which, practically in entire winter, are not in a position to produce a good variety of horticulture products. This is a golden opportunity for a country like India and, that is why, a number of schemes have been introduced in the Horticulture Mission to provide basic infrastructure, to encourage setting up cold storage and to encourage setting up packaging houses. We are also seriously considering how we can help these exporters to reduce their transport costs.

Diseases in Old People

*246. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a WHO-sponsored study conducted by the doctors of Maulana Azad Medical College, Delhi, on the geriatric problems has